

MAR 8 - 2019

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE STATE BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES TO CONSULT WITH
COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHO HAVE DIRECT TRADITIONAL, CULTURAL,
AND FAMILIAL TIES TO THE DISTRICT OF PUNA TO ESTABLISH
APPROPRIATE NAMES FOR THE FISSURE 8 VENT AND OTHER FEATURES
OF THE 2018 ERUPTION OF KILAUEA VOLCANO.

1 WHEREAS, section 4E-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, provides
2 that the members of the State Board on Geographic Names shall
3 consist of the following or their representatives: the
4 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, the
5 Chairperson of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the Chairperson
6 of the Hawaiian Homes Commission, the Director of the Office of
7 Planning, the President of the University of Hawaii, the State
8 Land Surveyor, and the Director of the Bernice P. Bishop Museum;
9 and

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11 WHEREAS, section 4E-3(a), Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires
12 the Board to "designate the official names and spellings of
13 geographic features in Hawaii and provide for circulation
14 thereof to the appropriate state and other agencies" and, in its
15 deliberations, to "solicit and consider the advice and
16 recommendations of the appropriate county government officials,
17 and, should the board desire, other knowledgeable persons"; and
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19 WHEREAS, on May 3, 2018, following a magmatic intrusion
20 into the East Rift Zone of Kilauea Volcano, the first of two
21 dozen fissures erupted near Mohalu Street in Leilani Estates;
22 and
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24 WHEREAS, on May 5, 2018, the eighth fissure, known as
25 Fissure 8, opened near Luana Street in Leilani Estates, and
26 briefly erupted lava fountains that reached an estimated two
27 hundred thirty feet in height, sending a slow-moving lava flow



1 approximately 0.6 miles northward and covering many homes in the
2 subdivision; and

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4 WHEREAS, on the night of May 23, 2018, Fissure 8
5 reactivated and sent a fast-moving flow northward that crossed
6 Pohoiki Road; surrounded Puna Geothermal Venture; crossed
7 Highway 132; covered Noni Farms Road and Railroad Avenue;
8 inundated papaya farm land; crossed Highway 137; entered Ka Wai
9 a Pele (Green Lake); burned hundreds of homes in Kapoho Farm
10 Lots, Kapoho Vacationland, and Kapoho Beach lots; filled in
11 Kapoho Bay; and destroyed the Waiopae Tidepools Marine Life
12 Conservation District; and

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14 WHEREAS, eruptive activity from the twenty-three other
15 fissures have become concentrated at Fissure 8, where a gushing
16 fountain has built a broad cone approximately one hundred eighty
17 feet high; and

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19 WHEREAS, because the United States Geological Survey
20 defines a volcanic fissure as an "elongate fracture or crack at
21 the surface from which lava erupts", the term "Fissure 8" is an
22 inaccurate name for the large tephra cone located on the East
23 Rift Zone within Leilani Estates; and

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25 WHEREAS, the ongoing eruption is creating numerous other
26 new and unnamed volcanic features, including the enlarged
27 crater, or nested caldera, at Halemaumau; the collapsed crater
28 at Puu Oo; the line of fissures and steam vents extending
29 through Leilani Estates and Lanipuna Gardens; the ocean entry at
30 Malama Ki Forest Reserve; and the channelized lava flow to the
31 ocean at Kapoho Bay; and

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33 WHEREAS, the naming of a volcanic feature in the Hawaiian
34 language may encode information about its physical
35 characteristics, historical events associated with its
36 formation, ecological surroundings, geographical location, or
37 related oral histories; and

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39 WHEREAS, the United States Geological Survey uses informal
40 names to identify and communicate information about volcanic
41 features, but defers to the local community, including Hawaiian
42 elders, for formal names; and



1 WHEREAS, the global community of amateur lava watchers have
 2 suggested many names for Fissure 8, but the names for this and
 3 other new volcanic features associated with the current eruption
 4 should be provided by community members with direct traditional,
 5 cultural, and familial ties to the district of Puna; now,
 6 therefore,

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 8 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
 9 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, the House of
 10 Representatives concurring, that the State Board on Geographic
 11 Names is urged to consult with community members who have direct
 12 traditional, cultural, and familial ties to the district of Puna
 13 to establish appropriate names for the Fissure 8 vent and other
 14 features of the 2018 eruption of Kilauea Volcano; and

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 16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
 17 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Chairperson of the State
 18 Board on Geographic Names.

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 20
 21 OFFERED BY

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